

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system for the verification or authentication of a document or object comprising flakes which comprise ~~Flakes comprising a polymerized, crosslinked or vitrified~~ non-chiral liquid crystal material, which flakes are in said decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object.

2. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the liquid crystal material is a nematic or smectic liquid crystal material.

3. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the liquid crystal material is polymerised, ~~crosslinked or vitrified~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object~~ according to claim 1, wherein the flakes ~~characterized in that~~ they comprise two or more layers of liquid crystal material.

5. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the liquid crystal material has uniform orientation.

6. (Currently Amended) Flakes ~~A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of~~

a document or object according to claim 1, wherein 5, characterized in that the liquid crystal material has planar orientation.

7. (Currently Amended) Flakes A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, wherein the flakes characterized in that they are platelet shaped.

8. (Currently Amended) Flakes A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 7, wherein the flakes characterized in that they have lateral dimensions of from 10 to 2000 microns and a thickness of from 0.5 to 5 microns.

9. (Currently Amended) Process of preparing flakes A process for preparing a decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, comprising by providing an achiral polymerizable polymerisable liquid crystal material onto a substrate, polymerizing polymerising the material, optionally removing the polymerized polymerised material from the substrate and processing it to form flakes.

10. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which comprises an ink in which said flakes are Ink comprising one or more types of flakes according to claim 1 dispersed in a light transmissive binder.

11. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, wherein the ink further Ink according to claim 10, characterized in that it additionally comprises one or more types of optically variable pigments.

12. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application,

security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which comprises an ink in which the flakes are dispersed in a light transmissive binder in the form of a film ~~Film or coating of an ink according to claim 10~~ provided on a substrate.

13. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which is a Use of flakes according to claim 1 for decorative or security applications, security marking markings or security threads, or systems of verification or authentication of documents or objects.

14. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which is a security Security marking comprising flakes according to claim 1 provided on a reflective substrate.

15. (Currently Amended) A decorative application, security application, security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 1, which is Document comprising a security marking on a document according to claim 14.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for Method of verification of a document according to claim 15, comprising by observing said document through one or more linear or circular polarisers.

17. (New) A security marking, security thread, or system for the verification or authentication of a document or object comprising flakes which comprise a polymerized, crosslinked or vitrified non-chiral liquid crystal material, which flakes are in said security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object.

18. (New) A security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 17, wherein the liquid crystal

material is a nematic or smectic liquid crystal material.

19. (New) A security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 17, which is a security marking or a security thread.

20. (New) A security marking, security thread, or system of verification or authentication of a document or object according to claim 17, which comprises an ink in which the flakes are dispersed in a light transmissive binder in the form of a film or coating on a substrate.